— Use of beneficiated coal in the thermal power stations.

— Regular monitoring for compliance of environmental standards.

— Setting up of sewage treatment plants to prevent disposal of untreated/partially treated sewage into water bodies. Under National River Action Plan (NRAP), 21 metro cities have been included for providing interception, diversion and treatment of Municipal waste water.

— City specific Action Plans to control pollution from various sources have been prepared for the mega cities of the country, including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, which are at the different stages of implementation.

— Action Plans have also been formulated for controlling air pollution, which includes identification of polluting sources, assessment of pollution load, and control of pollution from each of these sources.

— Implementation of Charter on Corporate Responsibility for environmental protection in respect of 17 categories of industries.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Environment and Forests has sponsored number of training and awareness programmes for prevention and abatement of pollution. The awareness programme is implemented through electronic and print media, including television, radio, newspapers, magazines and pamphlets. Various training programmes, workshops and exhibitions are also organised in co-ordination with the Non-Governmental Organisations in this regard.

Disappearance of tigers from Sariska Reserve

506. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-India expert team survey, the Sariska Reserve does not have any sign of the presence of tigers;

(b if so, the reasons for sudden disappearance of tigers from this Reserve;

(c) the total population of tigers in the country as per census carried out and the total number of tigers in the Sariska at that time;

(d) whether Central Government have demanded any explanation from State Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) India has reported no evidence of tiger after their two days visit to Sariska. However, the state has collected some indirect evidences regarding tiger presence during their intensive search. The Wildlife Institute of India has been mandated to undertake a detailed ecological study in the Sariska Tiger Reserve area for ascertaining the status of wild animals and other related factors to facilitate conservation.

(c) The total population of tigers in the country as estimated during the last census in 2001-02 is 3642, which include 22 tigers from Sariska.

(d) and (e) The State has been advised to ensure protection for tiger conservation through systemic improvement. The following measures have also been taken at the Government of India level to protect wild animals:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act. 1972.

(ii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection to wild animals.

(iii) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(iv) The Ministry of Home Affairs has addressed all State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) A National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016) has been launched with several action points and priority projects for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.